[8th August 1929

Grievances of the medical practitioners under the Rural Medical Relief Scheme.

*120 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the grievances of the medical practitioners under the Rural Medical Relief Scheme ;

(b) whether he is aware that they want to be treated as independent medical practitioners ; and

(c) whether he proposes to improve their position and status and if so, when ?

A.—(a) Yes ; copies of resolutions passed at the Rural Medical Practitioners' Conferences held from time to time were received by the Government.

(b) The hon. Member's meaning is not understood.

(c) The Government have recently improved to some extent their position and status by increasing the subsidies payable to them under the scheme from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per annum and also by making their position under taluk boards more secure. Whenever taluk boards convert rural into regular dispensaries they have been asked to consider the claims of the rural medical practitioners already in charge for the posts of sub-assistant surgeons in the regular dispensaries.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that these gentlemen do not want to be treated as servants of the taluk boards but want to be treated to independent medical practitioners ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" They are giving them as much facilities as possible."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Have the Government considered the question of asking the taluk boards to make provision for travelling allowance for rural dispensary men when being transferred from one place to another ? Are not Government's instructions in regard to rural medical practitioners being violated by the taluk boards ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If the taluk boards are not following the instructions of the Government, then there will be complaints against such taluk boards ? "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Is the hon. Minister aware that the rural medical practitioners are sent for such special duties as cholera, malaria and so on ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If there is cholera in any particular place and if the taluk board desires to put these men on special duty there is nothing to prevent them."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Is it a fact that these men are not paid travelling allowance for going and doing such special work ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If they are asked to go on duty which they are not bound to perform and they go, it is a matter between those medical practitioners and the taluk boards themselves."